**English 9**

Spring 2010

Mrs. Knowles

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259-3640

Office 214

**Course Description:**

English 9 is designed to promote critical thinking and develop reading and writing skills. This course requires students to actively engage with texts and subjects. Along with the reading, many writing assignments are given during the course of the semester. Students must be willing to keep up with the reading and come to class prepared to learn and to work hard.

**Grading Policy:**

* A ten-point grading scale is employed:

A = 90 – 100

B = 80 – 89

C = 70 – 79

D = 60 – 69

F = 0 – 59

* In this course, a point system is used. Each assignment is assigned a point value and thus tests, quizzes, papers, and projects are not weighted but are worth more points. The grade will be determined by totaling the number of points received at the end of the term and dividing by the total possible number of points.
* You have the right to review your grades; to receive test and paper results promptly; to meet with me, along with your parents, to discuss your progress and achievement; and to express classroom concerns to the administration.
* Note: There are required assignments in this course. **Failure to complete one of those required assignments will result in an automatic failure for the nine weeks, regardless of the student’s numerical average.** There is a list of required assignments on the next page. If one of these assignments is not completed or turned in by the end of the grading period, an F will automatically result, even if student otherwise has a passing grade.

**Units Covered:**

* Summer Reading – *Voyage of the Frog* and *Walk Two Moons*
* Short Stories – Various Authors
* *Animal Farm* – George Orwell
* *The Odyssey* - Homer
* *The Tragedy of Romeo & Juliet* – William Shakespeare
* *To Kill A Mockingbird* – Harper Lee
* Grammar and writing (throughout)
* Independent Reading (throughout)

**Materials**:

Students must come to class prepared everyday with assigned text, paper, pen, pencil, and 3-ring binder or other appropriate organizational system.

**Required Assignments:**

* Unit tests are required (Note: some unit tests may come in the form of in-class writings)
* Essays (the texts for essays may include some or all of the following: *The Voyage of the* *Frog, Walk Two Moons*, *Odyssey*, *Animal Farm*, *Romeo & Juliet*, and *To Kill A Mockingbird*)
* Independent Reading Assignment (details below)
* Final Exam

Failure to complete **all** of these assignments will result in automatic failure for the nine weeks in which the assignment is due and possible failure for course, regardless of numerical average.

**Independent Reading Assignment:**

Each student will read outside of class. Some class time will be devoted to independent reading each week, but students will need to read independently as well.

**175 Points Total:**

**25 points** – participation during class time

**100 points** – reading

* 100 points – 300 + pages
* 90 points – 271 – 299 pages
* 80 points – 239 – 270 pages
* 70 points – 208 – 238 pages
* 60 points – 176 – 207 pages
* 50 points – 146 – 175 pages
* 40 points – 115 – 145 pages
* 30 points – 80 – 114 pages
* 20 points – 40 – 79 pages
* 10 points – 1 – 39 pages

**25 points** – Summary Sheet: One summary sheet total, regardless of how many books read total.

**25 points** – Essay drawing connections between IR book and something from class

**Note:** Assignment sheet will be handed out at the end of the course unless otherwise requested.

**Late Work:**

Late work will be accepted, but will be penalized unless prior arrangements have been made. Anywhere from .5 – 3 points will be deducted from assignment for each day late depending on value of assignment as a whole. However, a low grade on an assignment is preferable to a zero on the assignment. If the assignment is one of the required assignments, it must be made up by the appointed time to avoid failing the nine weeks.

**Absences and Make-Up Work:**

It is the responsibility of the student to find out what work was missed due to an absence. Students must get assignments from the teacher and schedule make-up work the first day back from an absence. Failure to do so will result in the work being counted as late and suffering the penalty based on the number of days the assignment is late.

**Rewrite policy:**

All papers may be rewritten as often as needed or desired. The grades will be averaged, unless otherwise specified. Some assignments other than formal essays may be rewritten as well; please ask when about the specific assignment as need arises. However, in-class essays that are timed and serve as tests or portions of tests may **not** be rewritten.

**Rules:**

**Students will follow all rules set forth by Jamestown High School.**

In addition to school rules, there is only one rule in the course: respect. I expect you to show respect at all times in every aspect of your conduct. This covers such issues as tardiness, talking in class, interrupting others, marking in books, turning in assignments, and behavior. I want respect shown toward adults and figures of authority, fellow students, books, classroom and furniture, and subject matter. Failure to comply with this one rule will result in consequences which vary based on the offense.

**Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism is a serious offense that will result in a zero for the affected assignment and notification of parents/guardians, assistant principal, department chairpersons, guidance counselor, and the National Honor Society sponsor. The work submitted must reflect honest work that is your own and not copied, borrowed, stolen, or modeled after the work done by anyone else. Respect yourself enough to present your own work, your own thinking, and your own effort.

Note to parents/guardians:

Please do not hesitate to contact me about your child’s grade, behavior, etc. **Please also note that every other Friday your child will receive a printout listing his/her grades and current average**. Please ask your child for this information as it is provided for both you and your child.

This portion must be returned with both student and parent/guardian signature.

**English 9: Spring 2010**

**Knowles**

By signing this you indicate that you have read and understand this course syllabus. You also acknowledge the following:

1. This course is graded on a point system using a ten-point scale.
2. There are required assignments and failure to complete those assignments will result in an F for the nine weeks grade, regardless of numerical average.
3. Students must come to class prepared and materials include: texts (provided), paper, pencil and pen, 3-ring binder or other appropriate organization system.
4. Plagiarism and cheating are not acceptable and will result in a zero and contact with counselor and parent/guardian.

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Parent/Guardian Name (please print) Parent/Guardian Signature

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Student Name (please print) Student Signature

Best time (day, evening, weekend, etc.) and method (phone, email, etc.) for me to contact you: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_